GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:271
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
INTRODUCTION OF VEDIC ASTROLOGY AS DEGREE COURSE
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce degree course like Vedic Astrology in different Universities and Colleges;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that internationally acclaimed scientists have said that the move to set up the departments in Vedic Astrology in 24 universities would take up actually us backward to medieval times; and

(d) if so, the reasons for proceeding to include astrology as a subject for college education?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission decided, in principle, setting up of few departments of 'Jyotir Vigyan' in selected universities. Out of 42 proposals received in this regard, the Expert Committee of UGC recommended 20 universities. The Commission has approved the establishment of independent departments to introduce courses leading to B.A./B.A. (Hons.)/M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Jyotir Vigyan in these universities.

(c) & (d): The move to set up the above courses has attracted a mixed response. The UGC, as the custodian of higher education in the country, has endorsed the pursuit of such courses in the spirit of free inquiry into all aspects of knowledge in the holistic sense of the term.